

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application, with claims 19 and 20 having been withdrawn from consideration as a result of the Examiner's previous restriction requirement.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 7-11 and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,875,110 to Kazama et al. (Kazama), and claims 4-6 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazama, essentially for the same reasons set forth in the previous Office Action on the merits (see final Office Action, paragraphs 3-7).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as follows.

As explained in the Amendment filed June 24, 2005, Applicant's independent claim 1 provides a head drum assembly comprising a unique combination of features, including, *inter alia*, a rotary drum comprising an inner surface facing the shaft of the assembly and an outer circumferential surface opposite to the inner surface, and a rotor case directly bonded to the outer circumferential surface of the rotary drum (see Applicant's claim 1). On the other hand, Applicant's independent claim 9 provides a method for manufacturing a head drum assembly comprising a unique combination of method steps, including, *inter alia*, bonding a rotor case of the motor rotor directly to the outer circumferential surface of the rotary drum whose inner surface faces the shaft of the assembly.

As further explained in the Amendment filed June 24, 2005, Kazama does not disclose, teach, or even remotely suggest such unique combinations of features or method steps. In particular, Kazama discloses a conventional rotary head apparatus with motor magnet and yoke surrounding motor stator coil where:

[A] center shaft 1 is fixedly mounted in the center of the bottom surface of a lower drum 3 by force fitting or the like. An upper drum 2 is fixedly

mounted through a holding piece 10 on the upper part of the shaft 1 with a given distance between it and the lower drum 3. Incorporated within the intermediary space between the upper and lower drums 2 and 3 is a magnetic head driving unit including a head mounting member 78 having magnetic heads 8 and 8' mounted on the outer peripheral portion thereof, a rotary member 75, a rotary sleeve 4, a driving motor, a rotary transformer, etc. The rotary sleeve 4 includes bearings 5 and 5' which are respectively provided at its central upper and lower ends and it is rotatably fitted on the shaft 1 through the bearings 5 and 5'. *The rotary member 75 is fastened to the upper end portion of the rotary sleeve 4 with screws 12. Also, the head mounting member 78 and a motor rotor (a rotor magnet 18 and a rotor yoke 19) are fixedly mounted on the rotary member 75.* (*Id.*, col. 2, line 60 through col. 3, line 11, *emphasis added; see also Id.*, Fig. 1)

The Examiner maintains that “in figure 1 of Kazama et al, [sic] the motor rotor is directly bonded to an outer circumferential surface of the rotary drum 75” (see Office Action, paragraph 8). However, the Examiner does not provide any support for this conclusion in the Kazama reference itself, or any of the prior art references.

In fact, as clearly shown in Fig. 1 of Kazama, motor rotor (which includes a rotor magnet 18 and a rotor yoke 19) is fixedly mounted on the rotary member 75 **by means of a first screw 12** which fixes rotor yoke 19 to the lower portion of rotary member 75. Likewise, rotary member 75 is fixedly mounted on the rotary sleeve 4 **by means of a second screw 12** which fixes rotary member 75 to the upper portion of rotary sleeve 4. This arrangement is repeated in Figs 7, 8, 11, 13 and 14 of Kazama which **show the screws** (notably, the screws are not labeled as in Fig.1) that fix rotor yoke 19 to rotary member 75 and rotary member 75 to rotary sleeve 4. In a different arrangement shown in Figs. 20A and 20B of Kazama, rotor yoke 19 is fixedly mounted on rotary sleeve 4 along with cylindrical yoke 22 also **by means of a screw** (not labeled), which fixes rotor yoke 19 and cylindrical yoke 22 to the lower portion of rotary sleeve 4.

Thus, a careful examination of Kazama’s **actual** disclosure shows that Kazama does not disclose, teach or suggest **bonding** a rotor case directly to the outer circumferential surface of the rotary drum whose inner surface faces the shaft. Instead, in Kazama, rotor yoke 19 of the motor

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rotor is **fastened with a screw** 12 to the lower portion of rotary member 75, and rotary member 75 is **fastened with another screw** 12 to the upper portion of rotary sleeve 4 whose inner surface faces center shaft 1 (*see Id.*, Fig. 1).

Accordingly, Applicant's independent claims 1 and 9, as well as the dependent claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 15-18 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claims 1 and 9), are not anticipated by (i.e., are not readable on) Kazama at least for these reasons. Likewise, Applicant's dependent claims 4-6 and 12-14 would not have been obvious from Kazama at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to their respective base claims 1 and 9.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of claim 1-18 are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 18-2220. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Stan Torgovitsky
Registration No. 43,958

ROYLANCE, ABRAMS
BERDO & GOODMAN, L.L.P
Telephone: (202) 659-9076
Facsimile: (202) 659-9344

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